

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

**Brian P. Kelly**  
Secretary

# Transportation Agency Urges Motorists to Prepare During National Preparedness Month

SACRAMENTO—The California Transportation Agency is joining with the California Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles and Office of Traffic Safety to urge motorists across California to take simple steps during National Preparedness Month to be better prepared for roadside emergencies.

“The Transportation Agency encourages all Californians to take simple steps to prepare for roadside emergencies,” said Secretary Brian Kelly. “Having a roadside emergency kit in every vehicle can help keep you and your passengers safer until roadside assistance arrives.”

September is National Preparedness Month, an opportunity for Americans to get better prepared for emergencies in their homes, business, and communities.

“Safety on California’s roadways is the California Highway Patrol’s primary focus,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. “Should you become stranded or disabled on the side of the road, call and wait patiently for assistance to arrive. Our goal is to see that you get on your way to your destination as soon as possible, safely.”

Last year, the California Highway Patrol assisted motorists in more than 1.1 million roadside emergencies or other related issues across California. Motorists involved in a roadside emergency should always take extra safety precautions including:

- Try to pull over to the right shoulder to reduce danger from other traffic.
- Make your vehicle more visible by turning on your hazard lights or emergency flashers.
- Use your cellular phone or a call box to call for roadside assistance. If you are concerned for your safety or your vehicle is a traffic hazard, call 9-1-1.
- If you exit your vehicle, stay as far away as possible from oncoming traffic. If available, stay on a sidewalk, behind a guardrail, or up an embankment for extra protection.

Having a roadside emergency supply kit in every vehicle is another simple way for motorists to be more prepared for emergencies or when stranded in a vehicle until help arrives. Motorists should also properly maintain their vehicles to help ensure they get to their destination safely and without incident.

Motorists can purchase roadside emergency kits at many retailers or create their own kit. Motorists should take time to familiarize themselves with their kits and how to use them properly before an emergency occurs.

Recommended items for a basic roadside emergency kit include:

- Properly-inflated spare tire and tire pressure gauge
- Tire inflator or foam tire sealant
- Car jack and lug wrench that fits your vehicle
- Jumper cables to restart a dead car battery
- 15-minute roadside flare
- Reflective warning triangle or cone
- Charged cell phone or other method of contacting emergency services
- Bottled water
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Multi-tool or basic tool kit
- First aid kit including large bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, and scissors
- Work gloves
- Duct tape
- 50-foot rope and utility knife
- A quart of motor oil
- Plastic sheeting or plastic tarp
- Energy bars or other shelf-stable food
- Appropriate seasonal items such as blankets, tire chains and an ice scraper.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has useful information to help Californians be better prepared, including how to maintain emergency kits for homes, businesses and vehicles. For more information visit:

<http://www.calema.ca.gov/NewsandMedia/Pages/Preparedness-Month.aspx>

The Office of Traffic Safety also has a useful list of supplies that motorists should keep in their vehicles to be more prepared for the next roadside emergency:

[www.ots.ca.gov/roadsideemergencykit.asp](http://www.ots.ca.gov/roadsideemergencykit.asp)

*The California State Transportation Agency, which launched July 1, 2013, is responsible for transportation-related departments within the state: Board of Pilot Commissioners,*

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*California Highway Patrol, California Transportation Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, High-Speed Rail Authority, New Motor Vehicle Board and Office of Traffic Safety. The Agency was formed as part of Governor Brown's Government Reorganization Plan, which became law in 2012. A summary of the reorganization plan is located here:*

[http://gov.ca.gov/docs/Cover Letter and Summary.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/docs/Cover_Letter_and_Summary.pdf)

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